

# Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

## State Services for the Blind (SSB)

### REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

#### Possible Amendment to Rules Governing Rehabilitation Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired, *Minnesota Rules*, 3325.0100 to 3325.0490; Revisor's ID Number RD4224

**Subject of Rules.** The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development requests comments on its possible amendment to and repeal of rules governing rehabilitation services to the blind and visually impaired. The department is considering rule amendments and repealing some rule parts. SSB revised Chapter 3325 in 2011. Since the promulgation of that rule, several items were discovered that needed to be revised or included. These items are categorized into three areas: clarify terms and processes, correct oversights, and establish technology training policy. Comments on other areas of the current rule are welcome but will only be considered for this rule revision as the agency has time.

**Persons Affected.** The amendment to the rules would likely affect applicants and eligible individuals, including their designated/legal representatives, receiving rehabilitation services from SSB; SSB staff; and community rehabilitation programs and independent contractors providing services.

**Statutory Authority.** *Minnesota Statutes*, section 248.07, subd. 14a, requires the department to adopt rules to set standards for the provision of rehabilitation services, including program definitions; basic eligibility; financial need; definition of legal blindness; formal rehabilitation plans; placement in training programs; tools and equipment; and for appeals including timely agency response.

**Public Comment.** Interested persons or groups may submit comments or information on these possible rules in writing until 4:30 p.m. on December 31, 2013. The department does plan to appoint an advisory committee to comment on the possible rules. The advisory committee will include representatives of the State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind, consumer groups, community rehabilitation programs, independent contractors, SSB staff, and the Client Assistance Project.

**Rules Drafts.** The department has not yet prepared a draft of the possible rules amendments and repealers. When completed, a draft of the proposed rule amendments will be available at <http://mn.gov/deed/about/what-guides-us/rulemaking/>. A copy of the current rules is available at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/?id=3325>

**Agency Contact Person.** Written comments, questions, requests to receive a draft of the rules when it has been prepared, and requests for more information on these possible rules should be directed to: Natasha Lemler at State Services for the Blind, 2200 University Ave. W. Suite 240, St. Paul, MN, 55114, Phone (651) 642-0466, Fax 651-649-5927, and [Natasha.Lemler@state.mn.us](mailto:Natasha.Lemler@state.mn.us). TTY users may call the department at (651) 642-0506.



**Alternative Format.** Upon request, this Request for Comments can be made available in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, or audio format. To make such a request, please contact the agency contact person at the address or telephone number listed above.

**NOTE:** Comments received in response to this notice will not necessarily be included in the formal rulemaking record submitted to the administrative law judge if and when a proceeding to adopt rules is started. The agency is required to submit to the judge only those written comments received in response to the rules after they are proposed. If you submitted comments during the development of the rules and you want to ensure that the Administrative Law Judge reviews the comments, you should resubmit the comments after the rules are formally proposed.

Dated: Nov 6, 2013

Katie Clark Sieben

Katie Clark Sieben, Commissioner  
Department of Employment and Economic Development

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